

# RESOURCE LIST FOR FOSTER PARENTS

3/05

Compiled by Department of Human Services (DHS) staff, incorporating information from Hawaii Foster Parent Association (HFPA) and other resources

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
HELPFUL TIPS ON PHONE CALLS, ETC.	<p>When leaving phone messages for the Social worker (SW): leave a clear message as to what you need, the child's name, your name and number &amp; when are good times to call back. You can also email the SW (first initial &amp; last name @ hawaii.gov). If it is regarding medical coverage, clothing, and payments, contact the Social Service Assistant (SSA). If you need to speak to someone immediately, dial 0 or the indicated number on the SW's voice mail and you can ask for the Office Duty SW (OD) on call that day---or ask to speak to the unit Supervisor or the Section Administrator (SA) or your licensing SW.</p> <p>Other helpful people to call are the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) for information or advocacy; or the child's therapist for help on dealing with some of the child's behavioral/emotional challenges. The child's therapist should have after-hour emergency contact numbers.</p> <p>Always ask for names and numbers and keep the list handy.</p>
HOTLINE FOR AFTER-HOUR CRISIS CALLS	To report medical emergencies, runaway, or other after-hour crisis situations, call: (808) 832-5300 for Oahu; For Other Islands, call toll free—800-494-3991.
FOSTER BOARD PAYMENT	\$529 per foster child
DIFFICULTY OF CARE PAYMENTS (DOC)	Up to \$570 per foster child if the foster child needs a higher level of care. Inquire and discuss with the foster child's SW.
RESPITE FUNDS	Respite funds for foster parents, who need a vacation or break, to pay someone to care for the foster children. Call the foster child's SSA or SW.
MEDICAL COVERAGE	Foster children are covered by the State's Quest & Medicaid programs and you should receive a medical card/information for each child. If you haven't received a medical card, if you do not know where to take the child for medical or dental services, or to inquire about a change in providers, contact the foster child's SSA. Providers & pharmacies should be able to provide services with the medical information/copy of the medical card. For general information, contact the Med-Quest Information Line at 586-5390 (Oahu) for telephone listings for various departments or call the Med-Quest Enrollment Call Center, which is a Customer Service Center at 524-3370 (Oahu) or 1-800-316-8005.
SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL ISSUE	Medical treatments or medication for the foster parents or members of the foster home may be provided up to \$500 per incident or \$500 per person, depending upon a doctor's recommendations for a foster child's physical condition such as Hepatitis B, etc.
HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES	<p>WIC Program: Foster children less than 5 years of age may qualify for nutritious foods, health care referrals, nutrition education, etc. Contact your local WIC Services Branch—listed under Dept. of Health. Public Health Nurses (PHN): valuable assistance especially for caregivers for newborns - 3 years of age, wealth of resources, educating new parents, safety tips, assessing the child's health and development, can assist in making referrals for developmental evaluations, etc. Work with the child's SW for a PHN referral. Hawaii Keiki Information Service (H-KISS) is the</p>

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	initial point of contact for questions or resource information for children with developmental delays (0 - 3 years of age). Call 973-9633 (Oahu) or 1-800-235-5477 (Neighbor Islands).
PSYCHOLOGICAL/THERAPEUTIC SERVICES	Foster children can access therapy through Quest or Medicaid. They may also be eligible for therapeutic services through the school if the child is certified for these services and if it is included in the child's IEP. Work with the child's social worker, the school, and the Department of Education (DOE) surrogate parent as this can be a very complex process (see Special Education Advocacy item).
CHILD CARE/PRE-SCHOOL/CHILD ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	A+ Programs—apply at the child's school; Head Start Programs (Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai)—call pertinent office; PATCH—People Attentive to Children—839-1988 (Oahu); Alu Like, Inc. 535-1300 (Oahu) ---all will have eligibility requirements. Inquire at the schools or directly with child activity agencies such as Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii, Kamaaina Kids, YMCAs, etc. for scholarships or reduced rates for their programs. For Child Care Subsidy Assistance (for A+, pre-school, babysitting, some child activity centers, etc.) for working foster parents, contact the DHS Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System, Public Assistance Information Line at 643-1643 (statewide #) or your local financial assistance office. Foster Parents may be reimbursed for community group activity fees such as soccer, baseball. Call your foster child's SSA or SW for approval.
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	If you transport your foster child for therapy appointments, visitation, school meetings, IEP mtgs., etc. or if you attend child-related trainings, you may be reimbursed at a rate of 37 cents per mile. Call the foster child's SSA or SW (for the foster child-related situations) or your licensing SW (for trainings).
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	Refer to the Foster Parent Handbook or call the foster child's SSA or SW. You may also request reimbursement for sports uniforms and assistance on purchasing clothing for proms, etc. (up to \$125/child/year). Contact the SSA or SW before purchasing any clothing.
LIABILITY INSURANCE	Licensed foster parents are included in a LIMITED Liability Insurance Coverage. Review the brochure with your licensing social worker and secure the brochures that are mailed out annually. It is also recommended that foster parents also consider purchasing homeowner's or renter's insurance.
FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAMS OF HI OF CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE OF HI.	Foster Family Programs of HI provides funds for activities and services to enhance the lives of foster children and foster parents (funds for child development and increased self-esteem such as sports, camp, dance classes, etc.). The Children's Alliance of HI provides self-esteem classes and "placement kits," funds for child development and increased self-esteem. Ask your foster child's SW, GAL/VGAL, or therapist for more information.
COMMUNITY CLEARING-HOUSE (HELPING HANDS HAWAII)-Oahu only	Provides clothing, some possibility of cribs, etc. Ask your foster child's social worker to fax a request sheet so that your family can schedule an appointment with the Community Clearinghouse.
OTHER SCHOOL-BASED BENEFITS	Check with the school on applications for free/reduced-rates on school lunches, bus passes, summer school tuition waivers (summer school waivers based on available funding) for foster children. If the foster child does not receive a free bus pass, check with the SSA or SW about reimbursement or purchase order procedures for bus passes. Remember to note on the applications that the child is in foster care and who the social worker is and contact # so that

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	the application will have special processing. Check on any benefits/scholarships that the school offers. At the same time, please consider the feelings of the foster child as some children are embarrassed by these types of "freebies" that identify them as foster children. Kamehameha Schools will often offer scholarships/financial assistance for summer school sessions for part-Hawaiian children.
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY	Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH)—information and advocates who can advise you or possibly attend the Special Education-IEP meetings with the caregiver--536-9684 or 1-800-533-9684 or <a href="mailto:LDAH@LDAHawaii.org">LDAH@LDAHawaii.org</a> . Dept. of Education (DOE) Surrogate Parents--access through your school if your foster child is eligible for special ed services or call 941-7070-Oahu.
ILP SERVICES & MENTORING & HIGHER ED RESOURCES	Contact your foster child's social worker for information regarding Independent Living Program (ILP) Services (from age 12) and Mentoring resources and Post-High School Education funding/foster board for foster children. Also, contact the school counselor for assistance and information regarding ILP or Vocational and College Opportunities. Contact Kamehameha Schools if your foster child is part Hawaiian. Contact Hawaii Community Foundation @ 537-6333 for various scholarships including Geist scholarships for foster children.
COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES	Contracted services to provide support and counseling for foster parents to sustain foster placements (PARENTS, INC., Personal Parenting & Assessment Services, Child & Family Service, Catholic Charities are the contracted providers as of 12/03). Call your foster child's SW to initiate a referral.
PRE & POST-PERMANENCY SERVICES	Comprehensive services (counseling, educational, support, referral) for pre or post permanency parents. Contact your foster child's SW for information.
SUPPORT GROUPS	Available in various geographic areas. For foster parent groups, contact your licensing or the foster child's social worker or check the HFPA Bulletin or website (see internet websites). For Grandparent Support Group on Oahu, call QLCC-Na Tutu Program @ 235-7613.
FOSTER PARENT HANDBOOK	Includes basic foster parenting information, available from your licensing worker.
HAWAII FOSTER PARENT ASSN. (HFPA) BULLETIN	Issued quarterly to all foster parents-- excellent information & resources for foster parents. To receive, call HFPA @ 263-0920 (Oahu) or (877) 775-4400. See website information on HFPA.
LOCAL FOSTER PARENT NEWSLETTERS	Newsletters issued quarterly by licensing units to foster parents on Kauai & Maui and East Hawaii. Call your licensing worker to obtain.
TRAINING: ANNUAL HFPA CONFERENCE; HAPA, DHS, & FCTC & OTHER COMMUNITY SPONSORED WORKSHOPS	Speakers and workshops on a variety of topics of interest. Check the HFPA Bulletin, the various local websites, or watch for flyers in the mail. Registration and travel may be at your own expense. For licensed foster parents, registration fees could be reimbursed, depending on availability of funds. Check with your licensing worker or the foster child's SW. Generally, for the annual HFPA conference, DHS will sponsor NI and Oahu Foster Parents up to the budgeted amount. However, many of the community workshops are at little or no cost, especially those hosted/sponsored by the collaborative Foster Care Training Committees (FCTC) on each island (check with your licensing or foster child's SW).
INTERNET	HFPA: <a href="http://www.hawaiifosterparent.org">www.hawaiifosterparent.org</a> : Includes local and national events, information for foster

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WEBSITES	and adoptive parents, resources, and links to national websites. Aloha United Way 211 resource list: <a href="http://www.auw.org">www.auw.org</a> . Child Welfare League of America: <a href="http://www.cwla.org">www.cwla.org</a> . National Foster Parent Association: <a href="http://www.nfpainc.org">www.nfpainc.org</a> .
NATIONAL WEB-SITE ON FEDERAL TAX BENEFITS	Casey Family Programs: <a href="http://www.casey.org">www.casey.org</a> .
WEB-BASED TRAINING & INFO	<a href="http://www.fosterparents.com">www.fosterparents.com</a> innovative, on-line training modules for foster parents in Alaska but available and applicable to all foster parents or professionals or interested parties (modules available for information only).
RESOURCE LIBRARY	Books to borrow on foster care. Not available at all units. Call your licensing worker for availability or check with your local library.
FOSTER HOME RECRUITMENT	If you have friends, family, or other interested parties, pls. refer them to the DHS contracted agency that handles the recruitment and pre-service training, Hawaii Behavioral Health (HBH): 454-2570 (Oahu); 935-7949 (East HI-main office); or 800-995-7949 (toll free for NI). If you are a child-specific placement parent and interested in becoming a general-licensed parent, pls. also call HBH. The Department needs families as emergency shelters, or foster families for infants; or foster or adoptive families for teens or for children with high needs.